

# Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

December 2018 newsletter

In much of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and southeast Alaska drought conditions persist (red: D3-Extreme drought, orange: D2-Severe drought, tan: D1-Moderate drought, yellow: D0-Abnormally dry). In southeast Alaska, drought conditions persist (D0-D2).

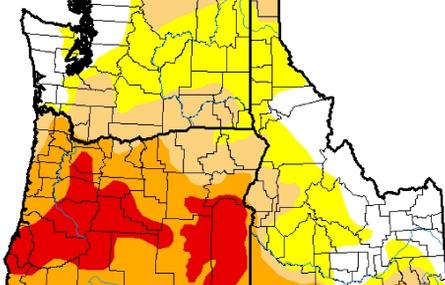
Warm snow drought, warm temperatures leading to rain rather than snow, is occurring in the Kenai Peninsula drainage basin where snow water equivalent is currently 38% of the 1981-2010 median and water year-to-date precipitation is 167% of 1981-2010 average. Click on the icon below to learn more about snow drought.

Many sources of information go into developing drought maps including reports from the public. Click on the icons below to get more information from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), to submit precipitation data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts for the Pacific Northwest.



## U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

December 11, 2018  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	71.16	10.44	5.81	8.34	4.25	0.00
Last Week 12-04-2018	71.70	9.90	5.81	8.59	4.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-11-2018	67.14	12.30	8.84	9.08	2.64	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2018	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-25-2017	67.14	12.24	6.76	10.17	3.69	0.00
One Year Ago 12-12-2017	99.99	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

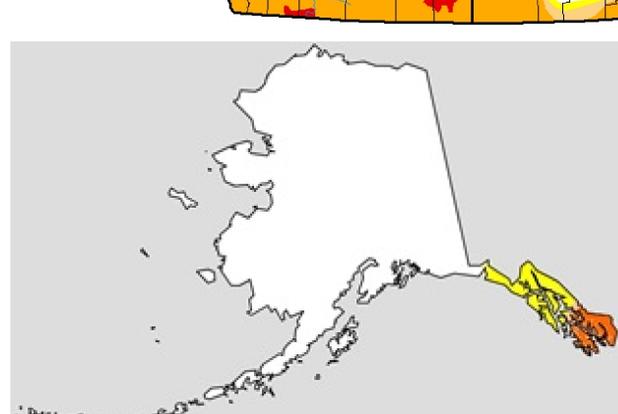
**Intensity:**  
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought  
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought  
■ D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

**Author:**  
Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



## 4th National Climate Assessment

The National Climate Assessment (NCA) assesses the science of climate change and variability and its impacts across the United States, now and throughout this century. Volume I presents an assessment of the physical science underlying Volume II provides information on impacts, risks, and adaptation in the United States. Below are links to a few of the 29 chapters that are of particular interest to our region.

- Chapter 1: Overview
- Chapter 2: Our Changing Climate
- Chapter 3: Water
- Chapter 6: Forests
- Chapter 8: Coastal Effects
- Chapter 29: Reducing Risks Through Emissions Mitigation
- Chapter 10: Agriculture and Rural Communities
- Chapter 15: Tribes and Indigenous Peoples
- Chapter 24: Northwest (ID, OR, WA)
- Chapter 26: Alaska
- Chapter 28: Reducing Risks Through Adaptation

### NCA4 Summaries and Presentations

During the Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System Webinar 17 Dec 11 am PT key points from the Northwest and Water chapters will be presented after the climate recap and seasonal climate outlook. Click text to go to registration page.

During the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network call 19 Dec 10 am PT key points from the Tribes and Indigenous Peoples and Northwest chapters will be presented. Call in 888-844-9904 access code: 5064716 Adobe Connect web meeting <http://oregonstate.adobeconnect.com/tribalclimate/>

Blog post on Agriculture Climate Network: Check it out: The State of the Science on Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest

Article in Capitol Press: Federal report: Climate change imperils some farms, but there's hope

## Workshops

### Healthy soils, healthy region workshop 12-14 March 2019, Pendleton, OR

Coming together to increase the adoption of soil health practices through coordination and training.

The workshop will bring together agricultural professionals and producers from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho for a 3-day workshop to improve awareness of existing, new, and evolving regional soil health practices and assessment methods. The workshop will provide hands-on training on soil health practices, improve understanding of the practical barriers producers face when implementing soil health practices, and increase familiarity with tools that can be used by producers to make decisions related to soil health. We will also strive to get the various groups working on soil health in the region on the same page regarding sampling protocols, method selection, and the current state of the science. **Register** by January 30th for early bird \$90 rate!



[Link to draft agenda](#)

### 17th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop (CPASW) 11-13 June Charleston, South Carolina.

This workshop will bring together a diverse community to share developments in research and application of weather and climate information for societal decision-making. The meeting format will include a combination of symposia, panel sessions, discussions, and keynote speakers that address the workshop theme: "Climate Information for Coastal Risk Reduction". Participants include researchers, service producers, resource managers, planners, practitioners, social scientists, and others making weather and climate-sensitive decisions. Abstract deadline 1 February. Registration available after 1 April.

## Conference

### 2019 North American Agroforestry Conference 24-27 June Corvallis, OR.

Agroforestry for Sustainable Production + Resilient Landscapes hosted by Oregon State University as well as the 16th biennial conference for the Association for Temperate Agroforestry. Abstract deadline 4 January. Registration opens 18 January.

## Information

- Engaging Climate Science through Citizen Science Apps, a blog post on Agriculture Climate Network.
- Flexibility is Key to Northwest Cattle Production's Future Success, a blog post on Agriculture Climate Network.
- Global Carbon Budget 2018 published in Earth System Science Data. An international team of more than 70 authors from dozens of institutions around the world analysed observations and models to compile an accurate account and projection of global carbon sources and sinks for the calendar year 2017.
- Alaska Forest Health 2017, report in StoryMap format showing read the forest health highlights & view an interactive aerial survey damage map
- Jump-starting Recovery of Wyoming Big Sagebrush and Other Native Plants out on the Range, Science You Can Use by the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.
- OneUSDA Internship Program: An internship with the Federal government is a great way to get real-world experience while you're working on your college degree and begin your professional career. Internship during summer 2019. **Applications due 18 January.**
- Tribal Climate Tool: Future climate projections for Pacific Northwest and Great Basin Tribes. This tool is designed to help tribes in the Pacific Northwest and Great Basin understand how the climate is expected to change in places that they care about. It provides maps, graphs, tables and descriptions of projected changes.
- Alaska Climate Dispatch is a state-wide seasonal summary and outlook for May - October 2018.

## Webinars

- Regenerating Urban Soils Through Plant Density, Willamette Valley Regenerative Landscape Coalition 14 Dec 10am PT
- Using Satellite Climate Data Records to Study the Shortwave Radiation Budget of Snow vs Sea Ice and Arctic vs Antarctic 19 Dec 11am AK
- December 2018 National Weather Service Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing 21 Dec 12pm AK
- Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System Webinar: Climate recap & outlook, key points from 4 National Climate Assessment 17 Dec 11am PT
- Resilience Dialogues: Connecting communities with experts via online dialogues to lay the groundwork for long-term climate resilience 18 Dec 10am AK

## Funding opportunities

### U. S. Forest Service announces a Citizen Science Competitive Funding Opportunity

To promote collaboration in support of these goals by bringing together partners, volunteers and the Forest Service in the pursuit of sound science and meaningful community engagement. This is the second year this program is offered and is emphasizing shared learning and developing an incubator model that supports projects in all phases of maturity. Three levels of funding will be available for 2019: Ideation (\$10,000), Project Development and Implementation (\$25,000) and Ongoing Project (\$10,000). Project applications are due January 31, 2018 by 11:59 pm ET. For questions, email: [FSCCS@fs.fed.us](mailto:FSCCS@fs.fed.us).

### Western SARE

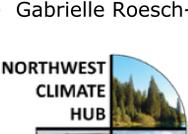
### Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture (due January 9, 2019, noon MST)

The Graduate Student Grants provide a maximum of \$25,000 and may last for up to 2 years. Those eligible to apply are masters or Ph.D. students enrolled full time (as determined by the institution's requirements) at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. An applicant is eligible for only one grant during his or her graduate program. Proposals are due January 2019.

### New email addresses coming in 2019

As a part of the OneUSDA initiative all Forest Service employees have new email addresses that end with @usda.gov. Currently, we are in a transition period and both @fs.fed.us and @usda.gov email addresses will work. Come spring 2019 we'll be transferring over to @usda.gov. You can start using these email addresses now to contact us:

- Katherine Smith, Acting Director [katherine.l.smith@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.l.smith@usda.gov)
- Holly Prendeville, Coordinator [holly.prendeville@usda.gov](mailto:holly.prendeville@usda.gov)
- Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Fellow [gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov](mailto:gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov)



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